

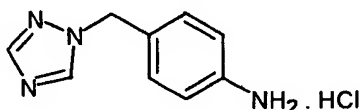
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

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1. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing a pharmaceutically active compound, rizatriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~characterised in~~
10 ~~that it~~ which comprises the following steps:

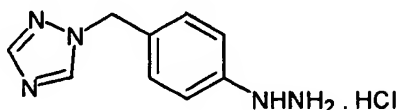
a) Preparation of the diazonium salt of the aniline hydrochloride of formula (II)



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(II)

followed by reduction and acidification to give the hydrazine of formula (III):



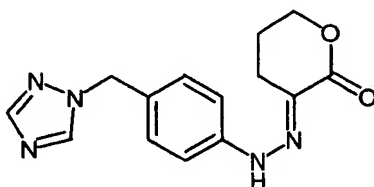
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(III)

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b) *In situ* reaction of the hydrazine hydrochloride of formula (III) with α -keto- δ -valerolactone, to give the hydrazone of formula (IV):

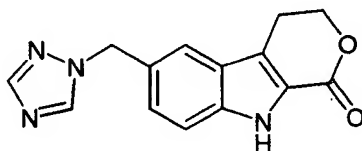


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(IV)

c) Fischer indole reaction of the hydrazone of formula (IV), to give the pyranoindolone of formula (V):

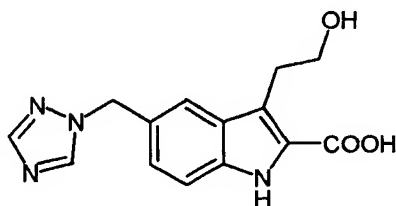
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(V)

followed optionally by hydrolysis to give the product of formula (VI):

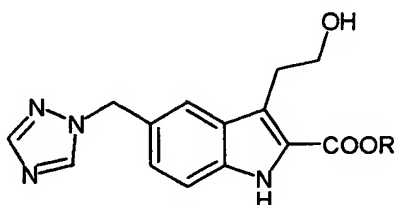
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(VI)

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d) Transesterification of the compound of formula (V) or esterification of its hydrolysis product of formula (VI), to give a compound of formula (VII):

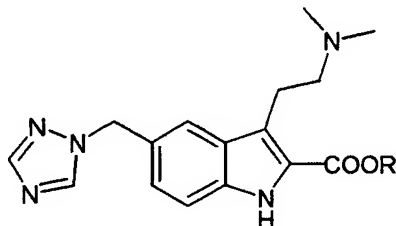


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(VII)

where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain;

e) conversion of the hydroxyl group of the compound of formula (VII) into dimethylamino, to give the indolecarboxylate of formula (VIII):



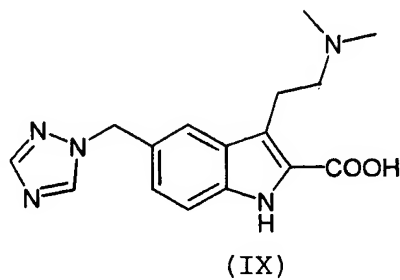
(VIII)

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where R has the same meaning as defined above;

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f) Saponification of the 2-carboalkoxy group of the compound of formula (VIII), to give the indolecarboxylic acid of formula (IX):



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g) Decarboxylation of the indolecarboxylic acid of formula (IX), to give rizatriptan, and eventually, the preparation of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that in said wherein in~~ step c) the indolisation is carried out in a solution of dry hydrogen chloride in a straight or branch C1-C4 alcohol chain.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ steps a), b) and c) are carried out as a one pot reaction.

4. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~Claims 1 and 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that said wherein~~ step c) is carried out in aqueous acid medium and is followed by a hydrolysis reaction to give the product of formula (VI).

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
~~characterised in that said~~ wherein step e) is carried out
in two steps:

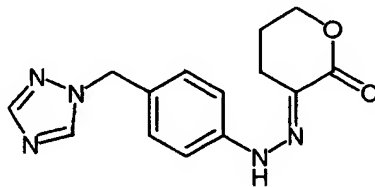
e-i) substitution of the hydroxyl group of the
5 compound of formula (VII) by a leaving group X; and

e-ii) subsequent substitution reaction of the
leaving group X with dimethylamine to give the compound of
formula (VIII).

10 6. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 5,
~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the leaving group X is
selected from a halogen atom, a mesylate group or a
tosylate group.

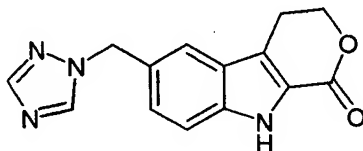
15 7. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
~~characterised in that said~~ wherein step d) is carried out
in an alcoholic solution and in the presence of an acid.

8. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
20 wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (IV):



(IV)

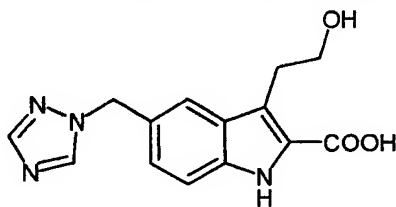
9. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (V):



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(V)

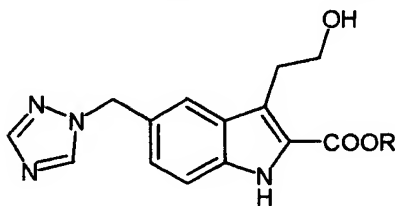
10. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VI):



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(VI)

15 11. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VII):



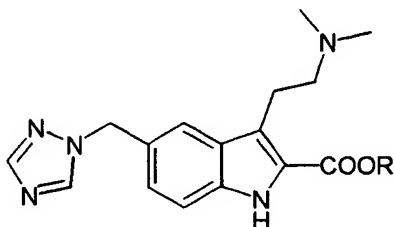
(VII)

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where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain.

12. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VIII):

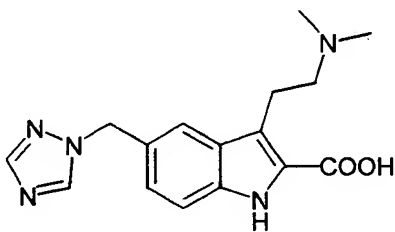
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(VIII)

where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl
10 chain.

13. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1,
wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (IX):



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(IX)